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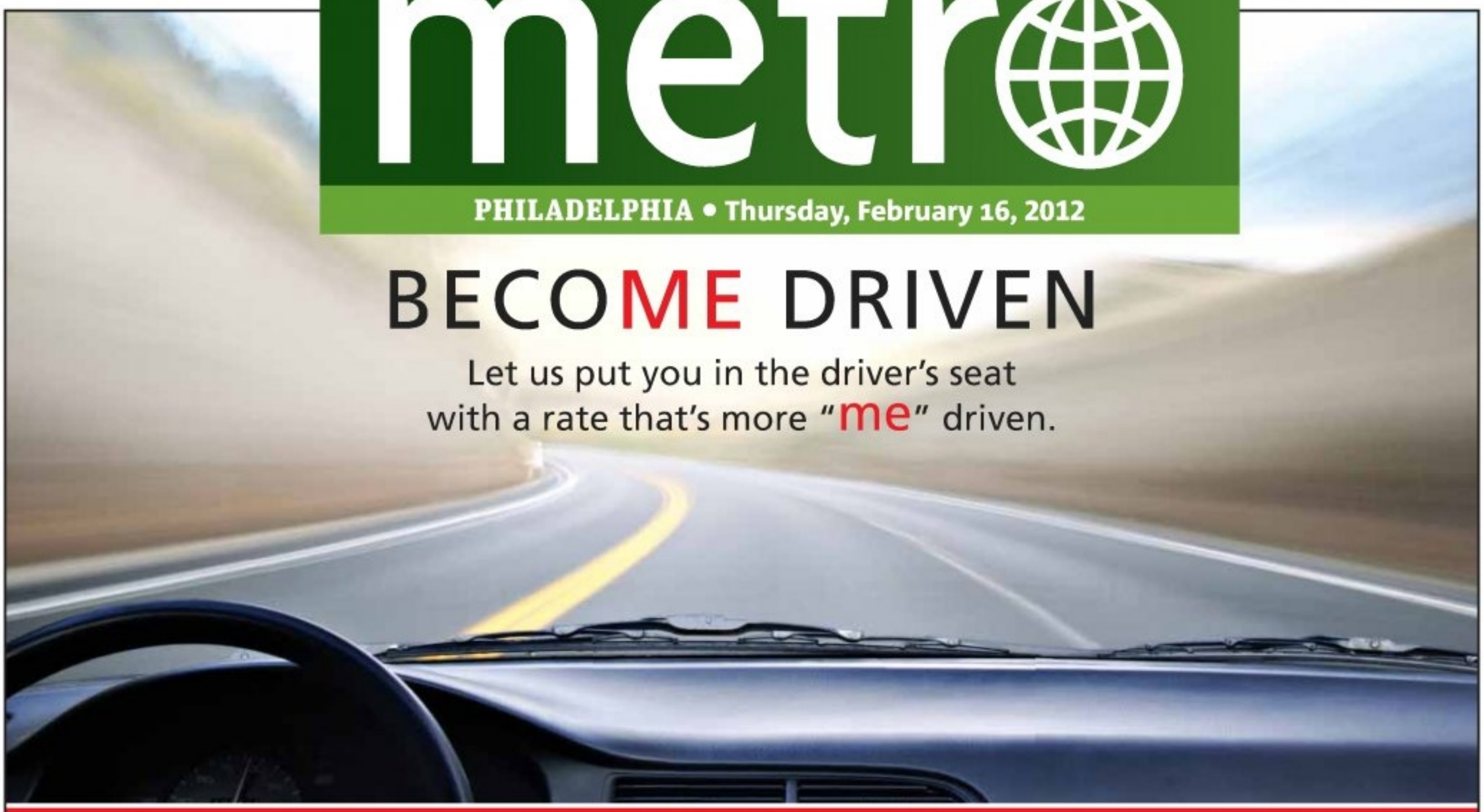

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#1 FREE DAILY NEWSPAPER IN CENTER CITY

KEEP HATING CHRIS BROWN {page 08}

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Brown's 'Judge Judy' case humiliates GOP

Former mayoral candidate Karen Brown takes knock on the chin as TV judge rules she owes $198 to campaign worker Brown: Worth free trip to Los Angeles {page 02}

FOX 29

▶ Brown, right, lost a $198 judgment on "Judge Judy" to Stuart London, left, who did some accounting for her failed mayoral campaign last year.

Metropolitik

GOP preaches tolerance, but not for Islam

Republicans accuse Obama of declaring war on religion
Meanwhile, they proudly persecute Muslims {page 07}

Showing less skin will be in

Yesterday's Fashion Week shows had everything (and everybody) covered {page 13}

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Defeat again for Karen

Last year, South Philly's GOP challenger Brown lost to Mayor Nutter This week, she lost a small claims judgment on national television in front of 'Judge Judy'

Former mayoral candidate Karen Brown appeared on a "Judge Judy" episode Monday after being sued for $825 in unpaid campaign services by her former accountant of a week, Stuart London, who admitted on the show that he is not an accountant, at all.

"He's looking for his place in the world and he called 'Judge Judy,' 'Judge Joe Brown,' 'Judge Karen' — I didn't even know TV judges existed because I'd never seen any of the shows," Brown said yesterday.

The television judge, whose real name is Judith Sheindlin, was harsh with both London and Brown, telling the former that he misrepresented himself by offering his services as an accountant when his experience was in sports writing and working as a lot manager for the Philadelphia Parking Authority. She told Brown that she should have vetted London more thoroughly.

Brown said that she ultimately appeared on the show because they paid her travel expenses and the $198 judgment against her. "I kept refusing and then Judge Judy offered to pay for everything, including a mini vacation," she said of her trip to Los Angeles.

"Then I found out that, in her court, everything was binding and he couldn't sue me again, so I said, 'Why not get it over with?' ... It would've been public either way. I was losing nothing and gaining everything."

Brown has no regrets, she said, but hoped that people didn't place too much importance on the cameo. "I am, right now, in the process of feeling out where I'm going to be. I will find a way to get elected and actually help the people of this city," she said. "I have to think that people are still interested because, when I run again, they'll still remember me — but hopefully for my campaign, not for Judge Judy."

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
awigglesworth@metro.us

▶ Brown and London squared off Tuesday morning.

Our favorite 'Judy' outtakes

Judge Judy: How long did you work for Miss Brown?
London: I worked for her, approximately, as far as I know ...
Judy: No, as far as you know.
London: OK ...
Judy: How long did you work for her?
London: I worked for nine days, apparently.

Judge Judy: So you were charging her, according to what you have in your complaint, $75 an hour.
London: Yes, ma'am.
Judy: That's quite a raise, Mr. London.
London: Obviously, it's different kind of work, your honor.
Judy: No, it's obviously quite a raise.
London: It is the rate, uh, I told her very clearly what my fee was.

Judy: You have no experience. You're not an accountant.

Judge Judy: Now, is that what you agreed to pay him?
Brown: He never specified an amount. He just said he was gonna get paid for his services ... I said, "I will pay you a fair amount when you produce the reports."
Judy: I've never heard of anything so ridiculous in my life, "I'll pay you a fair amount?" Who's to determine what's fair?
Brown: I had no proof that he had done any accounting work.
Judy: Then what did you hire him for?
Brown: Because I needed an accountant and someone had told me that he —
Judy: So why didn't you go out in the street and yell, "Anybody wanna be my accountant?" I mean, that has about as much validity as hiring him.

In the news

$6.5M

Asking price for the former West Philadelphia High School at 47th and Walnut streets, according to documents released by the School District of Philadelphia this week. The building is one of 12 listed for sale by the district, which has contracted with four brokers to manage the process..
METRO

In the news

Priest abuse
The judge presiding over the trial of a former high-ranking archdiocese official accused of moving pedophile priests said she would not step down yesterday despite claims by defense attorneys that she is biased against the Catholic church. Monsignor William Lynn's lawyers referenced comments Common Pleas Court Judge Teresa Sarmina made at a pretrial conference. Sarmina said her comments were distorted and taken out of context.
METRO

WRITE TO METRO:
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Philly GOP more than TV drama?

At least one established Philadelphia Republican, City Commissioner Al Schmidt, declined to comment on the 'Judge Judy' appearance, saying that he had not seen the episode. But he did weigh in on the state of the city's Republican Party.

"I think we've had some pretty encouraging developments in the city," he said. "It may be a generational shift, or it might be much more than that."

John Featherman, Brown's former opponent in the mayoral primaries and current Republican City Committee-endorsed candidate for the 1st District congressional seat, had plenty to say about the episode. "It doesn't matter what kind of incidentals they pay you, when you voluntarily make the decision you're going to be trivialized by appearing on a tabloid reality TV show, your brand is really cheapened," he said.

"I think she turned off many of her supporters by doing that show. ... The fact that she decided to turn it into a circus shows her credibility — or lack thereof." METRO/AW

Layoffs again at Inky, DN

PHILADELPHIA. The owner of the Inquirer, Daily News and philly.com will eliminate 37 editorial positions through a combination of buyouts and layoffs, according to the Newspaper Guild.

Officials from Philadelphia Media Network, which owns the papers and the website, told the union of the plans yesterday. Employees targeted for layoffs will be notified by March 1 and the cuts will take effect March 31, the Guild said. It is unclear if other departments will see cuts.

The news added to speculation that a sale of the company was imminent, but there was no official word yesterday. A group of investors led by former governor Ed Rendell is reportedly favored to purchase the stock from a New York-based hedge fund. METRO/SDL

BERARD LARMA/METRO

▶ More gloom inside.

ACLU: Female inmates in Pa. lack services

Though the 3,800 women incarcerated in Pennsylvania are legally entitled to reproductive health care, none of the county jails in the commonwealth ensure access to such care, according to a report released yesterday by the state's American Civil Liberties Union.

11.2% Increase in the incarcerated female population in recent years, according to the ACLU, which is growing twice as fast annually as the population of jailed men.

The report "exposes an uneven patchwork of health care policies in the 57 county jails. METRO/AW

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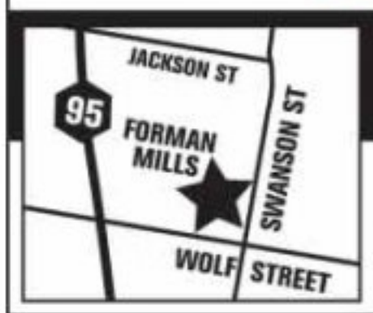

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News in brief

Arrest in suburban Wawa holdups

DELAWARE COUNTY. A 34-year-old Philadelphia man has been charged with holding up three Wawas since January, police said. Rezekiel Harris allegedly confessed to the armed robberies in Radnor Township, Lansdowne and Upper Darby Township over the past month-plus. **METRO**

Suspect ID'd in baby deserting

STRAWBERRY MANSION. Police have issued an arrest warrant for a woman who left her newborn daughter outside in a box days before Christmas.

Authorities have identified Patricia "Dina" Crawley, 33, as the mother of Baby Noel, who was found near 27th and Huntingdon streets. The girl is currently in the custody of the Department of Human Services. **METRO/SDL**

Tepper smelled of liquor, cop testified

PHILADELPHIA. A former police officer accused of fatally shooting his neighbor had an odor of alcohol on his breath shortly after the altercation, according to testimony from the second day of trial.

Frank Tepper, 45, allegedly shot Billy Panas in 2009. An officer testified yesterday that he smelled alcohol on Tepper's breath. **METRO/SDL**

Homegrown actor Bacon returns for Kimmel talk

RICARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Kevin Bacon answered questions last night about his life growing up in Center City and early acting gigs.

Actor Kevin Bacon, who grew up in Center City, was at the Kimmel Center last night for a Q&A moderated by film critic Carrie Rickey.

His first official performance as spokesman for the Kimmel Center's 10th anniversary was to sing the song of his old junior high school, the city's Masterman School.

The star of films like "Apollo 13" and "Mystic River" got his start at the Plays and Players playhouse on Delancey Street.

"I appeared in two plays there," recalled Bacon, who was dressed in all black except for a thin, purple tie.

He credits his parents with encouraging his interest in the arts.

> **"My parents did not care if we got good grades, made money, put our elbows on the table or played sports as long as we were drawing a picture or creating a song or a play."**
> BACON

"My parents did not care if we got good grades, made money, put our elbows on the table or played sports as long as we were drawing a picture or creating a song or a play," said Bacon, whose five siblings include brother Michael, who plays with him in their band, the Bacon Brothers.

He credits living in Center City with learning about all kinds of people, from "frat boys [to] the homeless." His father, Edmund Bacon, was one of the city's acclaimed planners. Bacon, who has played a frat boy, pedophile and Marine, does not draw the line at any role.

"There is no character that I would not play. Part of the reason that I became an actor was to explore different aspects of the human condition and to exercise demons," Bacon said.

LAURA GOLDMAN
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Phillies. Tickets on sale

▶ Chris Getz, 31, and his roommate came very early to make sure he got tickets this year. Last year, Gets said, he waited on line seven hours and still missed out.

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

Diehards arrive a little bit early at CBP

Two small groups of the most diehard Phillies fans gathered almost 24 hours before tickets went on sale at Citizens Bank Park for the 2012 baseball season. Tom and Ryan Drummond, 16, came right after school yesterday afternoon, meeting a friend who held a place in line since 9 a.m. Tickets went on sale 8:30 a.m. today. "Only the strong survive," superfan Chris Getz said sitting with a friend, undeterred by the cold weather. Both groups said they wanted tickets to the home opener and some bobblehead games. MALIK CHARLTON

Bigger tax credits for job creators in Philly

A bill — sponsored by Councilman Wilson Goode Jr. — that would boost the city's Job Creation Tax Credit Program by raising the amount of the credit from $3,000 to $5,000 for each new job created during the tax years 2012 and 2013 passed out of a City Council committee yesterday.

"We still believe that the Job Creation Tax Credit Program established in 2002 encourages businesses to expand employment within the City of Philadelphia," Tilahun Afessa of the Department of Revenue testified.

The program is meant to encourage businesses to hire more people in the city by offering a credit to offset companies' business taxes for each new job created in Philadelphia. All sizes and types of businesses within city limits are eligible.

Sixty-six firms have participated in the program through 2010, pledging to create 4,581 jobs. 1,032 of those have been certified as created, and $1,636,297 in tax certificates have been issued.

▶ Wilson Goode Jr.

4,581

Jobs that businesses have pledged to create through the city's 2002 Job Creation Tax Credit Program, which is poised to get a boost of $2,000 per job for city businesses

Despite the seemingly high price tag, the relative cost to the city is not steep.

"The annual amount of credit available under this program is limited to one percent of the prior year Business Privilege Tax collection," Afessa said. "So far, the total credits that have been awarded each year have been far less than the limit."

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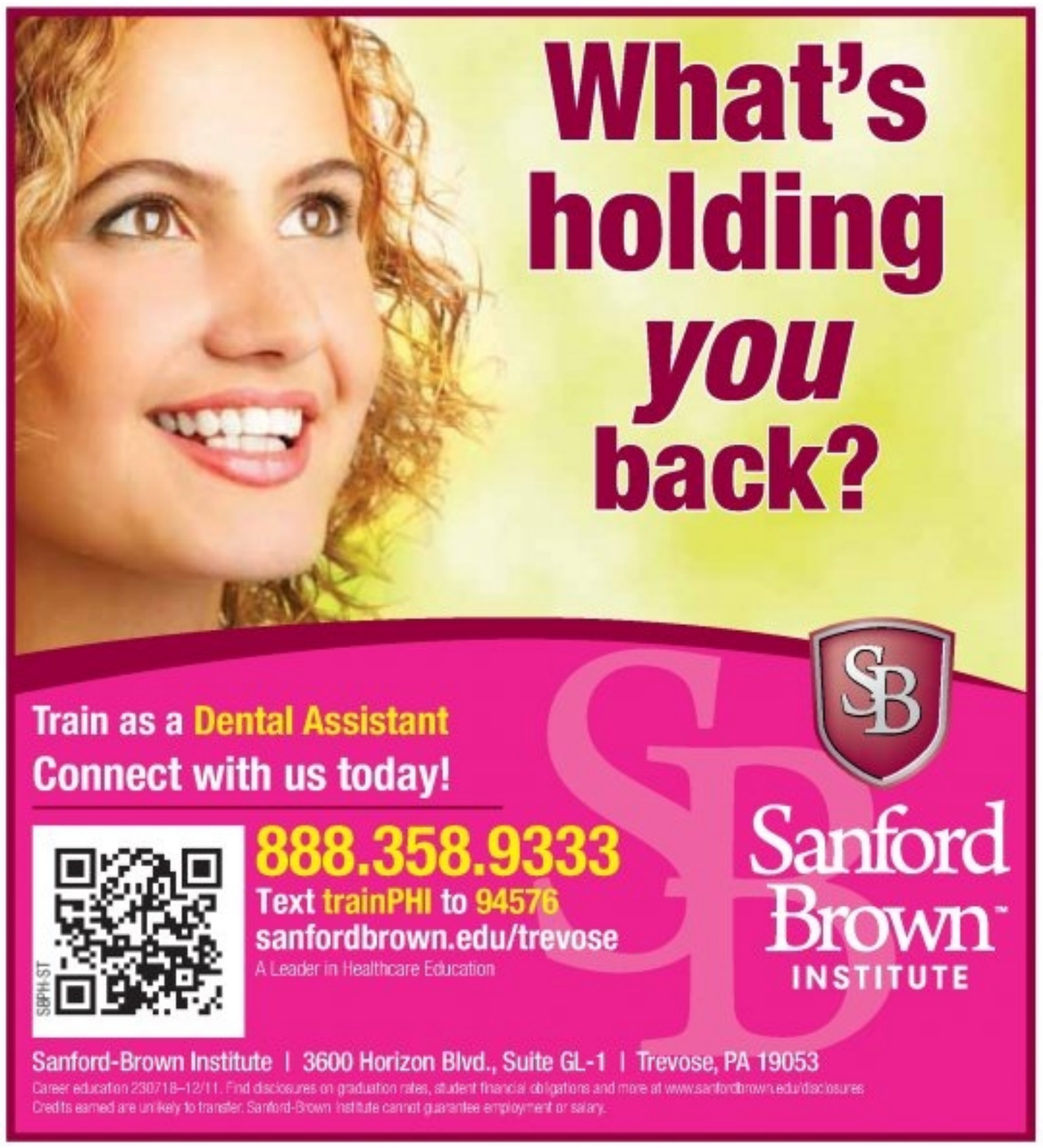
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Macy's: Martha Stewart is holding us hostage

Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. is "essentially holding Macy's hostage" by saying that its pact with the department store chain expires in January 2013, Macy's said in court papers in their contract dispute.

Macy's sued in January to stop New York-based Martha Stewart Living from executing an agreement to sell merchandise in J.C. Penney Co. stores. Macy's, based in Cincinnati, said it has the exclusive right to sell Martha Stewart-branded products in certain categories.

Martha Stewart Living fired back last week, accusing Macy's of breach of contract and saying that the retailer has stocked and priced Martha Stewart products in a manner that favors Macy's own private-label brands.

"The uncertainty created by MSLO's breach has put Macy's in an inequitable and untenable position," Macy's said in papers filed yesterday in New York state Supreme Court. "If the agreement were to actually expire in January 2013, Macy's would have to immediately begin seeking to replace and wind down the Martha Stewart product line at Macy's." BLOOMBERG

"If the agreement were to actually expire in January 2013, Macy's would have to immediately begin seeking to replace and wind down the Martha Stewart product line at Macy's."
MACY'S SAID IN COURT PAPERS

GETTY IMAGE

▶ Martha Stewart Living said Macy's couldn't have exercised a five-year renewal option on the deal between the two companies because of the breach.

5% of Americans would get divorced to avoid commute

NEW YORK. Here's your thought experiment for the day: What would you be willing to give up if it meant you could work from home? For some, the answer is a lot more than you might think.

A third of Americans say they would ditch Facebook and other social media in order to telecommute, while nearly 30 percent say they would stop eating chocolate, according to a survey of 2,500 working-age adults by TeamViewer, a software company.

In fact, Americans love the idea of telecommuting so much that 5 percent of those surveyed said they would actually be willing to divorce their spouse if that meant they could stop commuting and work from home instead. MAINSTREET.COM

1/3 A third of Americans say they would ditch Facebook and other social media.

30% Say they would stop eating chocolate

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Report: Apple iPad factory not the worst

Working conditions at Chinese manufacturing plants where Apple Inc.'s iPads and iPhones are made are far better than those at garment factories or other facilities elsewhere in the country, according to the head of a nonprofit agency investigating the plants.

The Fair Labor Association is beginning a study of the working conditions of Apple's top eight suppliers in China, following reports of worker suicides, a plant explosion and slave-like conditions at one of those suppliers, Foxconn Technology Group.

Auret van Heerden, president of the FLA, offered no immediate conclusions on the working conditions, but he noted that boredom and alienation could have contributed to the stress that led some workers to take their own lives.

After his first visits to Foxconn, van Heerden said, "The facilities are first-class; the physical conditions are way, way above average of the norm."

"You have lot of young people coming from rural areas, away from families for the first time. ... So the problems are ... more a function of monotony, of boredom, of alienation perhaps." HEERDEN

He spent the past several days visiting Foxconn plants to prepare for the study. "I was very surprised when I walked onto the floor at Foxconn, how tranquil it is compared with a garment factory," he said.

"You have lot of young people coming from rural areas, away from families for the first time," he said. "Factories initially didn't realize those workers needed emotional support." REUTERS

ANTONY DICKSON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Protesters — one wearing a mask of late Apple CEO Steve Jobs — rail against the working conditions at Taiwanese technology giant Foxconn, which manufactures Apple products in China.

News in brief

Kellogg No. 2 with Pringles purchase

NEW YORK. Kellogg Co. agreed to swallow Pringles potato chips for $2.7 billion in a cash deal that makes the cereal company second only to PepsiCo in the global snack food market.

The transaction also marks the final exit of household products maker Procter & Gamble Co. from the food business after its earlier deal to sell Pringles to Diamond Foods fell apart. REUTERS

Iran not backing down on nuke issue

TEHRAN. Iran proclaimed advances in nuclear know-how yesterday, including new centrifuges able to enrich uranium much faster, a move that may hasten a drift toward confrontation with the West over suspicions it is seeking the means to make atomic bombs.

Tehran's resolve to pursue a nuclear program showed no sign of wavering despite Western sanctions inflicting increasing damage on its oil-based economy. "Our nuclear path will continue," President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said in a live broadcast. REUTERS

Boehner signals payroll tax cut deal

WASHINGTON. A tentative deal to renew a payroll tax cut through the rest of this year likely will be finalized and voted on by the House of Representatives by the end of the week, House Speaker John Boehner said yesterday.

The proposed deal would extend a payroll tax cut for 160 million U.S. workers, extend jobless benefits for millions of others and prevent deep cuts in payments to doctors who treat elderly Medicare patients. REUTERS

Someone's declared war; who is it?

Metropolitik

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For complaints, suggestions and Turbo Tax early file incentives, e-mail us at brayden.simms@metro.us.

Wait just one minute. We hate falling into The Trap — the two-party conundrum in which we end up defending Democrats against outright lies and mischaracterizations despite our longstanding dissatisfaction with that party — but we're going to bite on this one. Just who is waging war on whom, here?

Republican noisemakers — including most of the current presidential candidates as well as leading legislators and right-leaning news pundits — have framed the Obama administration's efforts to ensure reproductive health care for all women as an attack on religious liberty; this despite an accommodation ensuring organizations like the Catholic Church (which benefit enormously from federal largesse) have absolutely no role in providing female health services.

Mitt Romney — who as Mass. governor presided over a similar insurance mandate system, even requiring Catholic hospitals to provide morning-after pills for rape victims — decries "the Obama Administration's attacks on religious liberty." Sarah Palin also calls it "a war on our religious liberties." Rick Santorum says Obama is "hostile to people of faith." Donald Trump says "[Obama] loves radical Islam."

JEFF FUSCO/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Santorum is only hostile toward non-Christian faiths.

GET FED

Because sometimes you only have time to skim the headlines:

- "White House: Freedom is Dangerous and Wrong" NATIONAL REVIEW ONLINE
- "Obama's Winning The Wedge Issue" THE DAILY BEAST
- "Elie Wiesel to Mitt Romney: Tell Mormon Church to Stop Baptizing Jews who Died in Holocaust" SLATE
- "Romney's Closer To Obama On Auto Bailout Than Either Lets On" TALKING POINTS MEMO
- "President Santorum Would Talk 'About the Dangers of Contraception'" REASON MAGAZINE
- "Obama Advisor Teamed Up With 'Swift Boat' GOP Consultant For Pro-Hedge Fund Campaign" REPUBLIC REPORT

Considering these comments — and many, many others — it certainly does seem that a war has been declared, though not the one these thought leaders would have us believe. See, there's an interesting quirk about religious liberty that these titans of the right seem to consistently overlook: That is, it necessarily applies to even non-Christian religions.

So when Newt Gingrich — who said last week that he would "repeal every act of religious bigotry put in by President Obama" — tells voters he would only hire Muslim workers after they pass a strict loyalty test, he shows himself as the true religious bigot. And when Trump accuses Obama of consorting with Islamist extremists, he actually implies that religious freedom is indeed high on the president's priorities (ignoring the fact that his statement has no basis in reality). Santorum's religious hypocrisy is revealed in his forceful denunciations of Sharia law — even as he pushes his own brand of Christian law on the nation. Palin strongly opposed building a mosque in New York City. Romney does not think "a cabinet position would be justified" for any Muslim.

Those most loudly accusing Obama of religious intolerance are in fact the most intolerant of all! Their concerns reflect only their incredibly narrow beliefs. Marginalizing one religion while playing the victim card over their own supposed persecution, these people don't care about liberty for anyone but themselves: They want to establish America as a Christian nation that imposes Christian beliefs on all. That's religious war.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

myentertainment

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Will Bobby Brown attend Whitney Houston's funeral?

Whitney Houston's funeral will be held on Saturday at her childhood church, the New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, N.J., the church pastor said Tuesday night. The invitation-only funeral is expected to be attended by 1,500 or so people, with the public remaining uninvited. But there's one person whose inclusion on the guest list is still up in the air: Houston's ex-husband, **Bobby Brown**. TMZ reports that the singer is "extremely disappointed" after hearing that several members of Houston's family do not want him to attend Saturday's service. Apparently, Houston's family isn't "fond of him" (um, understatement of the century, TMZ). The site reports that Brown wants to go to support **Bobbi Kristina**, his daughter with Houston, but hasn't "decided on a plan of action yet."

However, we do know Brown will be on the East Coast this weekend, as he is scheduled to perform with his group, New Edition, on Saturday at the Mohegan Sun Arena. The Sun's publicist sent a release yesterday saying that, as of yesterday, Brown was still scheduled to perform.

▶ Makeshift memorials from fans are already going up at the New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, N.J.

Chris Brown responds to haters

Good work, America. **Chris Brown** is taking all of the negative attention people have showered on him since Sunday's Grammy Awards to heart and is now on a Twitter rampage. He tweeted last night: "HATE ALL U WANT BECUZ I GOT A GRAMMY Now! That's the ultimate F— OFF!"

You know who else won a Grammy? **Milli Vanilli**. So don't put yourself in such high esteem there, bub.

▶ Brown

Winslet doesn't want to see herself in 3-D

Kate Winslet is bracing herself for the 3-D re-release of "Titanic," 15 years after it originally came out. The actress has already seen 17 minutes of footage, and it wasn't necessarily a pleasant experience. "I was literally like, 'Oh my God, make it stop. Is that me? Block my ears, somebody. Somebody club out my senses. Make it f—ng stop,'" Winslet tells USA Today. "I'm sure I wasn't really a very good actress. Seriously, we are talking about something that happened 15 years ago. It is a very long time ago."

Don't worry, Kate. We have a feeling everyone in the audience will have the same reaction.

Winslet

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Lady Gaga is looking for ways to relax, Stephen Fry is far from home, Kathy Griffin is reconsidering her choices and Alec Baldwin is setting his sights.

@ladygaga
Been working like a crazy b--ch all day. Need to smoke a joint or something; or maybe just a good punch in the face. PROPS PROPS PROPS.

@stephenfry
It's 6.50 am in Sydney. Got an hour or so to wait till the flight to Wellington and then I shall finally be in Hibbety-Hobbity land. Hurrah.

@kathygriffin
Should I have worn underwear???

@alecbaldwin
I want a Grammy. I just want it.

Griffin

Talking points

Seyfried dishes about Phillippe

While **Amanda Seyfried** and **Ryan Phillippe** never officially acknowledged they were dating at the time, Seyfried now says the whole thing was a mistake. When asked by Glamour magazine if she and Phillippe still keep in touch, Seyfriend says, "We don't. His situation is very difficult." She doesn't go into many details about what those difficulties are, though. "You know when two people shouldn't be together from the get-go? That's why [we split]," she says.

▶ Seyfried

Jolie's down-to-earth worldview

Awards season may mean more gowns and red carpets than usual, which may be why **Angelina Jolie** has glitz and glamour on her mind. The actress and first-time director insists that's all just a part of the job — and not a terribly important one. "Every now and then I get a dress on and I walk a red carpet but it's kind of a funny thing you do," Jolie says, according to Radar Online. "It's a party you go to occasionally but it's not who you really are. It's all just part of the job. I have a real view of the real world, and I am very happy in the real world."

Brand has already moved on

While **Katie Perry** unveiled a new angry breakup song at the Grammys over the weekend, soon-to-be ex-husband **Russell Brand** was reportedly already enjoying the single life, taking in a show at comedy and music venue the Largo in Los Angeles with an attractive young woman by his side, according to the Sun. After the show, the two retired to his house, and Brand drove her home the next morning. "Russell is a single man again and starting to move on from Katy," a source tells the newspaper. "Like any bloke, he had missed female company. He isn't quite back to his old ways yet, but he's very much back in the saddle."

How the celebs spent Valentine's Day

1. Does he have his eye on his future Valentine? **Jack Nicholson** attended a basketball game between the Atlanta Hawks and the Los Angeles Lakers in Los Angeles.

2. Gabrielle Union strutted her stuff while on the red carpet at the premiere of Tyler Perry's "Good Deeds" at the Regal Cinemas L.A. Live in Los Angeles.

3. Gavin DeGraw performed onstage at Shepherds Bush Empire in London.

4. Tony Bennett accepted a key to the city at San Francisco City Hall, which celebrated the 50th anniversary of his first performance of "I Left My Heart In San Francisco" in — where else? — San Francisco.

5. "Jersey Shore" star **Pauly D** hosted a party at Pacha in New York City.

6. Dita Von Teese posed following a performance of "Sleep No More" in New York City.

7. Jaqson Johnston-Lynch, 8 years old, presented **Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge** a bouquet of flowers after her visit to a Liverpool charity.

1: NOEL VASQUEZ/GETTY IMAGES
2: FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES
3: ANDY SHEPPARD/REDFERNS
4: MAX MORSE/GETTY IMAGES
5: STEVE MACK/GETTY IMAGE
6: JEFF SCHEAR/GETTY IMAGES
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TV watch list

▶ "Parks and Recreation"

CHRIS HASTON/NBC

'Parks and Recreation'

COMEDY. The lack of a new "Parks and Rec" episode last week is more than made up for tonight, when guest star Louis C.K. returns as Leslie's cop ex-boyfriend, Dave. The reunion becomes just slightly awkward when Leslie, stumping for the support of the chief of police, introduces Dave to Ben, her current beau. **8:30 p.m., NBC**

'Hook, Line & Dinner'

REALITY. Ben Sargent's fish-focused foodie tour of the U.S. returns to provide Lent recipe inspiration. **Season premiere, 8 p.m., Cooking Channel**

'The Mentalist'

DRAMA. Looking for a "Homeland" fix? Here ya go: Morena Baccarin guest stars as a murderer Jane helped imprison, but has furloughed in exchange for info she claims to have on a CBI charity worker's murder. **10 p.m., CBS** AMBER RAY

Talkin' 'bout 'Re:Generation'

Producers Mark Ronson and DJ Premier on working outside of their comfort zones New film pairs producers with musicians, genres and cities that are new to them

BRIAN NEVINS

▶ Mark Ronson, center, jams with members of the Dap-Kings, Zigaboo Modeliste and Trombone Shorty. "Re:Generation" screens tonight at 8 at Rave University City 6. Visit www.regenerationmusicproject.com for more info.

It's not easy to throw Mark Ronson for a loop. Having produced such varied acts as Amy Winehouse, Duran Duran and Nas, he was eager to get involved in a fish-out-of-water musical experience like "Re:Generation," the new film which pairs producers with unlikely musicians.

"I came from being a hip-hop DJ in New York, starting off in the '90s and that's what you did, you brought genres together," says Ronson. "That has always appealed to me."

For his part, Ronson brings one of his favorite backing bands, the Dap-Kings, to New Orleans to create a jazz song with Erykah Badu, Trombone Shorty, Mos Def and drummer Joseph "Zigaboo" Modeliste.

"We were all pretty much just going into it with Zigaboo as a complete hero of all of ours," says Ronson. "The way he plays drums and his drum breaks from the early Meters stuff are pretty much the DNA of hip-hop and funk, and we were all excited beyond belief to play with him. And he still plays and sounds like he did on those records that we grew up listening to!"

Elsewhere in the film, DJ Premier visits Boston to work with the Berklee Symphony Orchestra, Skrillex works with the surviving members of The Doors in Los Angeles, The Crystal Method go to Detroit to work with Martha Reeves of the Vandellas and the Funk Brothers, while Pretty Lights struggles to create something country with LeAnn Rimes and Dr. Ralph Stanley.

"I saw it in the trailer that there's a little tension and some serious culture and generational gaps going on, and I'm a little bit concerned that our thing is going to seem a bit boring," says Ronson, whose composition really does seem to come together quite organically. He says a key to the kinship was hanging out.

"We all just learned a lot and had a great time down in New Orleans," he says. "We went to this kind of alternative scene bar where like 80 percent of the dudes had full face tattoos and they were playing this music called bounce, and we just absorbed all of New Orleans, not just its traditional culture."

PAT HEALY
pat.healy@metro.us

Premier premieres

DJ Premier may have had the assignment that was least similar to what he regularly does. The hip-hop producer, known for his work with rappers like Snoop Dogg and Kanye West, had to create a piece of classical music. "I really enjoyed having the chance to learn something new," says Premier. Granted access to classical greats, Preemo sampled various composers to piece his ideas together. Then he collaborated with Berklee professor Stephen Webber, who transcribed the samples into written music. "Working with everyone on this was just dope," says Premier. G. VALENTINO BALL

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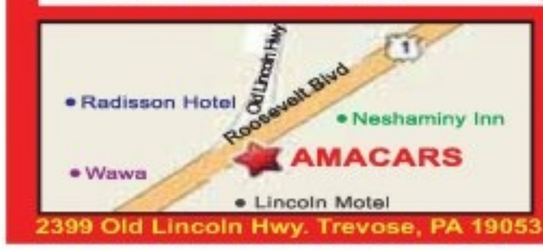

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10 Reasons to hit the movies this weekend

Must-see

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▶ Boo! It's Ghost Rider!

1 'Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance' Are you totally over all the sappy Valentine's Day stuff? Maybe a flaming, chain-wielding skeleton atop a motorcycle will do the trick for you. The Nicholas Cage franchise about a man afflicted with spirit of the Ghost Rider returns, this time to save a child possessed by the devil.

2 'This Means War' It's not unrealistic to picture two men fighting over Reese Witherspoon, but if those two men are Chris Pine and Tom Hardy, playing stealthy spies sabotaging each other's attempts to woo her, well that makes it unbelievable and possibly awesome.

3 'The Secret World of Arrietty' The Japanese adaptation of the classic book "The Borrowers" boasts a voice cast that includes Will Arnett and Amy Poehler.

4 'Safe House' Denzel Washington heads up this tense thriller about a highly skilled rebel CIA agent who, after being on the lam for 11 years, turns himself in without explanation.

5 'Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace' Do you think you might like Jar Jar Binks a little more if you could see him in 3-D? George Lucas hopes so.

6 'The Vow' Rachel McAdams elevates this rom-com film about a woman who gets amnesia and can't remember who her husband is.

7 'Journey 2: The Mysterious Island' The sequel to 2008's "Journey to the Center of the Earth" proposes that the locations described in "Treasure Island," "Gulliver's Travels" and "Mysterious Island" were all the same place.

8 'The Woman in Black' Daniel Radcliffe's first post-Potter outing comes in this gothic tale of an 1800s British seaside town terrorized by the ghost of disturbed mother, hell-bent inspiring the local children to commit suicide.

9 'Chronicle' After three friends make a strange discovery in the woods, they find they've gained the power of telekinesis. It's all fun and games, until their abilities soon bring out a darker side.

10 'Big Miracle' John Krasinski and Drew Barrymore star in this heart-warmer about an Alaskan community coming together to save a family of whales trapped in the Arctic Circle. METRO

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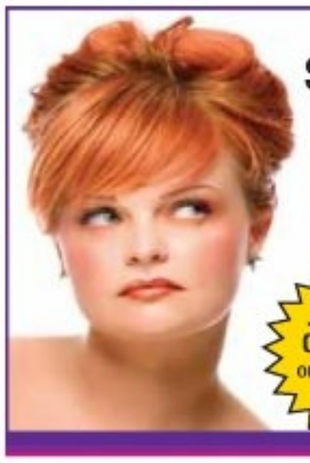
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Crashing around Cape Town

▶ By the looks of things, all must be forgiven between these two.

GETTY IMAGES

Co-stars Denzel Washington and Ryan Reynolds come out (relatively) unscathed after shooting their new nonstop-action spy thriller 'Safe House'

It must get dull, filming so many studio films in stupid old Hollywood. Luckily for Ryan Reynolds and Denzel Washington, their most recent release allowed them a fascinating break from the norm. "Safe House," a thriller set both in the gleaming city of Cape Town and the desolate townships that lie outside of it, provided plenty of eye-openers for both actors.

"If you're from the United States and you go over there, you can't really believe what you're seeing," says Reynolds regarding the impoverished Apartheid-era townships, which remain populated to this day.

Washington, who readily recalls the day he had breakfast with Desmond Tutu and lunch with Nelson Mandela, also notes how South Africa's violent past still haunts the county's citizens.

"It was interesting talking to an elderly man who built a nice house for himself in the township," Washington says. "It's like, 'Well, why are you living out here in the township? Why don't you move toward the beach?' He's like, 'Oh no, I don't trust these people. They might change their mind.'"

"Safe House" uses Cape Town primarily as a backdrop to the central plot about a rebel CIA agent (Washington) captive in the hands of an inexperienced safe house agent (Reynolds), but the research Washington put into the film wasn't just focused on what it's like to be a spy. Instead he studied up on sociopathy, given that his character displays certain disturbing behaviors. "I thought most sociopaths were violent. In fact, they are not," he says. "They just want to win. There was one sociopath that would steal things in the post office and get there the next day because he wanted to see how everybody was trying to figure out what he knew. I guess it's a feeling of power."

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Waterboarding, car crashing and a black eye

Ryan Reynolds was spooked by being in the driver's seat of a car that was being controlled by a remote (and going incredibly fast toward a wall), but Denzel Washington gets the real bragging rights, considering he got waterboarded and took a hit to the eye, all in the name of cinema.

Were there any injuries on the set?

DW: Ryan gave me a black eye. There's a scene where I reach out and try to choke him when I have my handcuffs on. We were flying around in the car and he wasn't actually driving the car. It was being controlled by someone else, so it just happens that when I reach forward, he was flying back and "POW!"

RR: And that was my early retirement. That first look you gave me after it happened.

DW: It was a real look.

RR: It was very real. It was weird to feel my face on fire.

DW: Yeah it was strange. I've never had a black eye in my life, now I can't say that any more.

RR: I'm glad I was your first. If it was going to be anybody, it was at least an apologetic Canadian.

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NY Fashion Week reviews

Marc by Marc Jacobs

1 Was it a mid-century Russian military moment? Or French student activists caught mid-protest? Or New York hipsters channeling '80s Irish punks? It's always an interesting exercise guessing which references go into a Marc Jacobs show. One thing we can say for sure, the austerity of his secondary line made quite a contrast from the evocative eccentricity he showed for his main line a few nights earlier. But the intelligent plays on volume and proportion were still there. His Marc by Marc Jacobs girls had an untouchable, buttoned-up seriousness to them with wide, knee-length skirts, oversized military jackets, boxy coats and crisp Oxford shirts that obscured the body to the point of almost de-sexualizing it. Hormonal club kids, they were not. Glossy officer's drum hats; lace-up, high-top boots; and a color palette of mostly charcoal, black and white — with the occasional pops of red and blue — added to the overall intensity. KENYA HUNT

Tory Burch

2 Set in Alice Tully Hall's floor-to-ceiling glass lobby, Tory Burch's fall show stopped traffic on 65th Street yesterday morning. Commuters stood outside, mesmerized by the pretty young things and the lovely creations they wore. We suspect that's the same reaction any woman wearing Burch's ultra-feminine clothes will receive. Models with their hair pinned in French twists came down the runway in lady-like tweed cardigans; knee-length skirts; and dreamy chiffon, tulle and organza separates fit for a princess — or UES royalty. Maybe the Kate Middleton effect set into the subconscious of New York designers, because fall is all prim and proper. There were moments of this good girl gone bad, though — the show notes say Burch's girl falls for the wrong kind of guy. Body-hugging silhouettes and skintight leather pants hinted at some naughty behavior — which is great, because nice girls like to have fun, too. TINA CHADHA

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▶ *We bonded over chicken sausage and Bellinis while trading stories of our favorite YouTube videos. Our dates have been day-long food fests and in you, I've found someone who loves to eat as much as I do. A rarity, indeed. You're the butter to my lobster roll.. and I hope to be the cheese to your cheesesteak.*

▶ ***Greg: Thanks for making the toast and not killing the cats.***

▶ *AW, suas mensagens me fazem muito feliz. —GA*

▶ ***Dear Jonathan Toews, Please get all Captain Serious on your team tonight and pull out a win at MSG. XOXO, A Chicago fan in NYC***

▶ Oh Stacy, you just can't tame George Clooney's wild, wild heart.

Is it really a relationship or just great chemistry?

George Clooney was married once, and he has famously said that he will never do that again. But it is hard not to wonder if each of his girlfriends thinks that she might be the one to change his mind. Or do you think they take him at his word? It's a common conundrum, and you certainly don't have to be dating George Clooney to think you just might be special enough to be The One. After all, you probably ask yourself, how could he not feel that amazing connection between you?

So what do you do when you meet a guy and even though he's clear from the beginning that he's not interested in getting involved in a serious relationship, the signals he gives you when you're together tell you something else? You have a great time together, you share many things in common, you laugh a lot and the sex is fantastic. Who wouldn't want to keep that going? Or what if he isn't up front about it, but after a few months he shows no interest in meeting your friends and family, he won't introduce you to his and he's still available only one night a week, if not less? What initially seemed like a great opportunity is now suddenly starting to make you feel disappointed and needy. When you're with him it feels great, but when you aren't he is evasive and slow to return texts and e-mails.

Shrink wrap

DR. JANE GREER

HEALTH.METRO.US

Save yourself the trouble. If you are lucky enough that he is actually open about not wanting a relationship, believe him. And if he is showing you the signs that he doesn't, then take those to heart and stop hoping for more than he is already giving you. A healthy connection grows when new building blocks are added on. If that isn't happening, it is your signal that an block is still in place.

For all of you out there hoping to be the second Mrs. Clooney, listen up: If George says it isn't going to happen, it probably isn't.

— Relationship expert **Dr. Jane Greer** *is creator of* ***"Shrink Wrap"*** *– national commentary on what we can learn from celebrity relationships – and host of* ***"Let's Talk Sex"*** *at* ***Healthylife.net.*** *Her book,* ***"What About Me? Stop Selfishness From Ruining Your Relationship,"*** *is available nationwide.*

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Letters

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Religion in politics: Healthy debate

RE: "OBAMA POLICIES NOT AN ATTACK ON FAITH": I'm so glad you published my letter, because it actually got people talking and so many views came out on both sides which was great. 2012 will be an interesting election. With the debt problems we have, it probably won't matter who wins now; but let's see. Let's have more dialogue and somehow maybe common ground can be found somewhere — heck, anywhere!
JOHN L. HEMPHILL III, VIA E-MAIL

The establishment and free exercise clauses of the First Amendment were intended to ensure that Americans never have to put the demands of the federal government ahead of their own conscious or religious beliefs. The benefits or drawbacks from birth control is not the issue. The issue is whether government can force private employers and private citizens to violate their religious principles simply because they run a business or pay taxes.
KELLY DONNOE, VIA E-MAIL

Firstly, Obama is requiring contraception, not abortion support. Though the author of the previous letter may dislike them both equally, they aren't the same, and it is childish to use the words interchangeably just to start a flame war. Secondly, Obama isn't working to oppress people's religious freedom; he's working to keep your religious freedom from encroaching on my freedoms. If your boss were a Jehovah's Witness, and therefore believed that God was the only one allowed to cure diseases, and therefore refused to provide his or her employees with any health insurance, would you object then? Inflicting your views on others is oppression — until you're doing it in the name of religion.
LARISSA SUPNIK, VIA E-MAIL

Like the Catholic Church, I too was offended and outraged by Nicki Minaj's performance. Not because it was blasphemous, but because it was completely devoid of any talent whatsoever!
ROBERT LA ROSA, VIA E-MAIL

Don't trust your gut on spending cuts

RE: "TIME FOR CHANGE: CUTS, CUTS AND CUTS": Mr Haugen: Although the logic behind the statements made by Mr. Lew are beyond you, the truth behind the statements is unaltered. If people with no education in certain areas would stop believing their gut over mathematical certainties, the country would be better off as a whole.
MARK AQUINO, VIA E-MAIL

I'd like just once for critics of President Obama, Sterlin Richman especially, to please identify actual policies the president has put into place whereby "big government will control everything." These histrionics of theirs are getting downright embarrassing for the rest of us.
JOSEPH CONNELL, VIA E-MAIL

Democrats want to protect entitlement programs like Medicare and Social Security. Republicans don't want to raise taxes. They can both have their way! Cease all foreign military intervention, end the "Drug War," and stop corporate welfare for banks. If we do those things, we can have the best of both worlds.
RYAN WILHELMI, VIA E-MAIL

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Horoscope

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** If you feel that you're capable of tackling something that is a departure from your usual endeavors, go for it. Chances are that your perceptions are totally accurate.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** A joint endeavor could prove to be particularly fortunate for you, due to an involvement with someone who is as serious and ambitious as you are.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Expect to be popular, because you'll employ your gift of making everyone feel special even more than usual. This always leads to constructive relationships and good times.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Unusually numerous opportunities regarding your job or career currently surround you. Someone at the top could be eyeing your work and liking what they see.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Even though it might be more work, it goes without saying that when you use your organizational and managerial skills more effectively, you get exceptional results. It pays to put in the time.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Express your individuality by utilizing your artistic and creative touches at work. These skills will go a long way toward making you stand out from the middling crowd.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** If you put forth your best effort, you should be able to amplify even further something good that you already have going. Think in expansive terms.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** The possibility for personal acquisition is exceptionally good at this time, owing to two special factors: one is your ability and the other is Lady Luck.

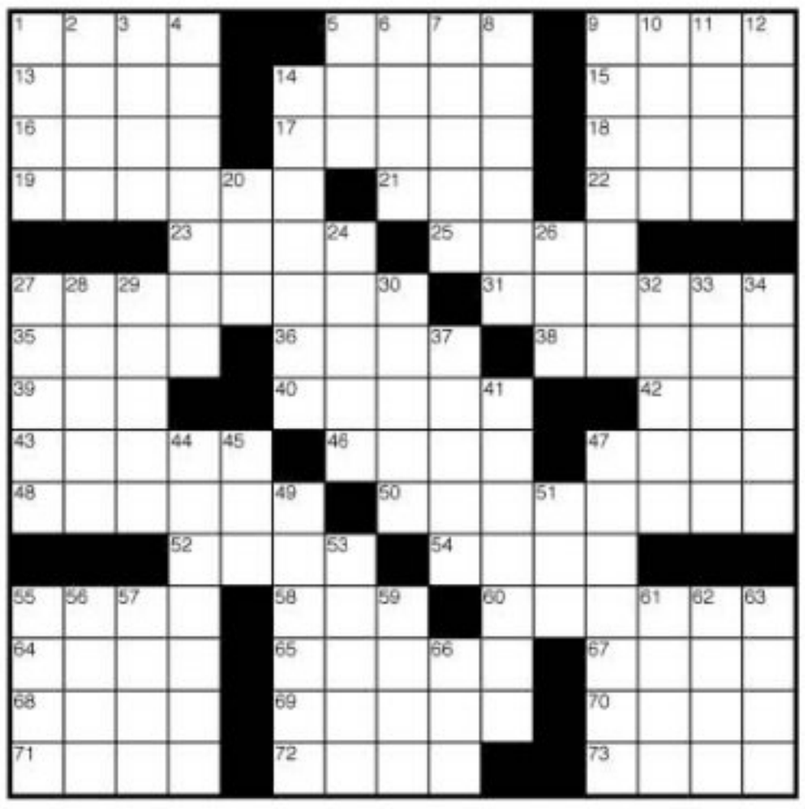
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Arousing enthusiasm in others will come easy to you, and you'll have no trouble getting folks to voluntarily participate in things that you feel are priorities. Making your interests appealing should be a snap.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Things have a way of going much better when we maintain an air of mystery and/or secrecy about our lives. Keep both your financial and domestic affairs to yourself.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Take care not to unintentionally put material things above your involvements with close friends. Constructive relationships shouldn't and can't be measured in worldly terms.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** If your objectives are more lofty and noble than usual, it's likely that you will find yourself to be unusually lucky. Unselfish gestures have a way of producing unique rewards.
BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across
1 Answered a judge
5 Faint flicker
10 Goat cheese
14 Bring on board
15 Argot
16 Declare frankly
17 Panache
18 Cash, for instance
19 World's longest river
20 Most devious
22 Housed a horse
24 Turn sharply
25 Caustic solution
26 Monarch look-alike
30 Direct route
34 Eclipse, to an ancient
35 Was willing to
37 Math course
38 Boy
39 Lion's quarry
40 Whichever
41 Old-time oath
43 Grand or baby grand
45 Dance movement
46 Mariachi wear
48 Runt's description
50 Electrical unit
51 Chocolate-colored dog
52 Not on the level
56 "Gunga Din" writer
60 Bob, the comedian
61 Nutty
63 Operatic prince
64 Fateful date
65 Icicle locales
66 "Nautilus" skipper
67 Ale serving
68 Candied
69 Gumbel or LeMond



Down
1 Sigh of relief
2 "Hi- __, Hi-Lo"
3 Of a historic time
4 Inhabitant
5 Clyde port
6 Pre-discount price
7 Naval off.
8 Seasons
9 Like calico cats
10 Radiator adjunct (2 wds.)
11 Sinister
12 Painted tinware
13 Impressed, plus
21 Listener's need
23 Yes vote
26 Meadow mice
27 Portrait
28 Closet liner
29 Hindu mystics
30 Untactful
31 In a huff
32 Poker pair
33 "The Mummy" setting
36 Ms. Merkel
42 Most apt to mildew
43 Heavy blossoms
44 Slickest
45 Brother or sister
47 __ Beta Kappa
49 Carpet pile
52 Mail a package
53 City near Stockton
54 Accessible
55 Make like a beaver
56 Cypress feature
57 Disney CEO Bob __
58 Iditarod terminus
59 Tar's toddy
62 Blvd.

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	8			3			9	
	2		6				1	7
7					4	6		
2		6		5		8		1
		5	1					9
4	1				9		3	
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		9	2	8				

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

6				5			8	2
						5		3
	7		1		3		9	
	2		4	3		8		
		6				4		
		8		6	1		2	
	1		3		8		5	
2		9						
8	6			4				7

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

M	E	E	T	S		L	I	R	A		L	E	S	E
I	N	D	I	A		A	T	E	N		E	V	I	L
C	O	N	A	N		S	E	P	T		G	E	T	S
A	W	A	R	E		T	R	A	I	T	O	R	S	
			A	R	C			I	C	H				
I	W	A	S		O	M	A	R		W	H	I	T	E
O	R	O		E	A	R	N		L	A	U	R	E	L
W	O	R	K	S	L	I	K	E	A	C	H	A	R	M
A	T	T	I	C	S		H	E	C	K		T	S	E
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N	A	P	A		E	D	E	N		E	N	T	E	R

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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3

Three party?

Meeks left out of three-point NBA contest

Jodie Meeks had been lobbying to be a part of the three-point shootout at All-Star weekend. It won't happen. The Sixers guard wasn't among the names announced yesterday by the NBA. The field will include James Jones, Joe Johnson, Kevin Love, Ryan Anderson, Anthony Morrow and Mario Chalmer. METRO

Bad break

Hawes out until All-Star Break

Sixers center Spencer Hawes will most likely be out until Feb. 28, according to team president Rod Thorn.

Hawes is seeking a second opinion on his strained left Achilles. He had missed 15 of the Sixers' past 17 games — counting last night — while dealing with a variety of nagging injuries.

Deadline clock ticking

Flyers may or may not be players at NHL's trading deadline ◗ Weber, Suter apparently off the market ◗ Team trying to get on the same page ◗ JVR finally sheds no-contact jersey

Tick tock. It's now 11 days away.

On Feb. 27, the trade deadline will be upon us and the Flyers are in a position to be buyers. Rumors have swirled about the team being interested in everything from one of Nashville's two prized defensemen, to a third goalie to Columbus winger Rick Nash. None of those options are likely, but it's not rare for the Flyers to be mentioned in such rumors.

"Guys aren't really nervous because it's not about guys leaving," center Danny Briere said. "It's more about that we might get some guys coming our way. There's not too much worry."

In years past, players have read their names in trade rumors that have them leaving Philadelphia. This year, it's more about the Flyers adding.

"You've got [Ryan] Suter and [Shea] Weber apparently off the market," Briere said. "Those were the two guys that would really make a huge difference. I don't think we're waiting for them. We've proved early on that we can win when everyone is on the same page."

Recently, they haven't been. The Flyers have lost six of their last eight, and had three days to contemplate the direction they've been heading before tonight's game.

"It's better to be down now than at the start of April," Max Talbot said.

The Flyers have experience in that sense. They won three of their last four games two seasons ago and got into the playoffs on the last day. Then, they advanced all the way to the Stanley Cup Final.

"There's no method to the madness," coach Peter Laviolette said. "I think what you hope for — and what I certainly hope for — is that you play well down the stretch and you're confident about your game and you're into the playoffs. There's no guarantee of how you'll do. There's no winning formula, I don't believe. It's been done every way."

DAVE ISAAC
sports@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

▶ James van Riemsdyk practiced with the Flyers' top line at yesterday's practice. He could be back in the lineup tonight.

He said it

"I think what you hope for is that you play well down the stretch and you're confident about your game and you're into the playoffs." LAVIOLETTE

ON TV TODAY

Sabres at Flyers, 7 p.m. (CSN)

3 things we saw ...

1 **On the mend** — James van Riemsdyk practiced with a regular jersey, shedding the no-contact uniform. He took on a little bit of contact and filled in for the absent Jaromir Jagr who was home with the flu on his 40th birthday. Despite the apparent progress, van Riemsdyk said he is "not feeling any different." Andrej Meszaros did not practice and is day-to-day with an upper-body injury.

2 **Hot Sabres** —Buffalo has won five of its last eight, but still comes into the Wells Fargo Center second to last in the Eastern Conference. The Flyers have beaten them in both meetings so far this year, each time by a goal.

3 **Back to Bryz**— Look for Ilya Bryzgalov to get the start in goal tonight. Sergei Bobrovsky is 1-3 in his last four games and allowed 18 goals over that span. His 2.42 goals-against average has risen to 2.90 and his .919 save percentage has dropped to .902. Bryzgalov is 3-3-0 in his career against Buffalo, including two wins this year.

Struggling Flyers raise ticket prices for 2012-13

With the NHL playoffs around the corner, the Flyers' buzz is growing. The trade deadline is looming and everyone wants the latest scoop.

But season-ticket holders aren't happy. Not only have the Flyers won only two of their last eight home games, but next year it will be more expensive to watch them.

Season-ticket holders were informed that prices will go up next season — $2 in the upper level, $3, $4 or $7 in the lower level. The average ticket price increased by $6 for the 2011-12 season, which had been the Flyers' first ticket hike in five years.

$6 Average hike in ticket prices for Flyers fans in 2011-12.

"I was expecting an increase last year; I was not expecting it to be that large," said Scott Pringle, 27, of Berkeley Heights, N.J. who is in his fourth season as a season ticket holder. "I'm really surprised and shocked that there's another increase. I was paying $36 two years ago and now it's gonna be $45." METRO

GETTY IMAGES

Ticket prices

Lower level, ice row
- Single game difference: $7
- Season ticket difference: $308
- Single game, 2012-13: $200
- Season tickets: $8,800

Lower level, Cadillac Grille
- Single game difference: $4
- Season ticket difference: $176
- Single game, 2012-13: $106
- Season tickets: $4,664

Lower level, center six
- Single game difference: $3
- Season ticket difference: $132
- Single game, 2012-13: $98
- Season tickets: $4,312

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- Single game, 2012-13: $92
- Season tickets: $4,048

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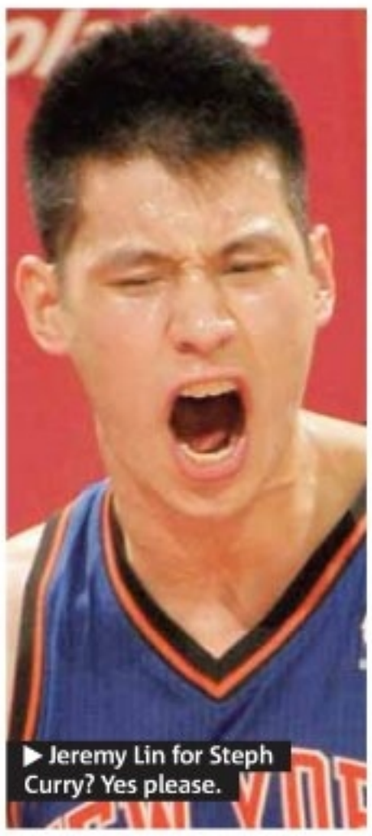
- Season ticket difference: $88
- Single game, 2012-13: $67
- Season tickets: $2,948

Upper level, mezz row 6
- Single game difference: $2
- Season ticket difference: $78
- Single game, 2012-13: $57
- Season tickets: $2,508

Upper level, mezz row 15
- single game difference: $2
- Season ticket difference: $88
- Single game, 2012-13: $39
- Season tickets: $1,716

WHAT TO MAKE OF ALL THIS LIN-SANITY

Jeremy Lin owners have a sore shoulder from patting themselves on the back so hard. The real trick is seeing what the trade market bears for the Knicks' phenom.


▶ Jeremy Lin for Steph Curry? Yes please.

Over the last six games, the former undrafted free agent out of Harvard is averaging 26.8 points and 8.5 assists. Expecting him to sustain that is unrealistic — even for the biggest "Linsanity" fans.

Hot shot

During Lin's 21 career D-League games, the point guard shot 48 percent from the field. When players make the leap to the pros, their shooting percentage inevitably comes down. But since bursting onto the scene with the Knicks, Lin is at 50.4 percent. A regression is coming.

Melo issues

If Carmelo Anthony (groin) was healthy, Lin wouldn't even have taken that game-winning shot against the Raptors. Once Melo gets back in the lineup, Lin's attempts and time with the ball will go down. Right now, he's getting 19.5 shots up per night. Anthony was a "ball hog" at 18.8 attempts per game.

How high?

All this said, we should not be selling Lin on the cheap. He's going to settle in around 32-35 minutes, well off the 40 he's playing right now. But he'll still be a top-50 player as a perfect fit for Mike D'Antoni's offense. Aim for the top-30.

Fantasy sports

ADAM LEVITAN
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Baseball rookies

With spring training almost here, it's time for elite prospects to jump onto the fantasy radar:

1
Matt Moore, SP, TB — Moore struck out 210 batters over 155 innings in the minors last year, and then dominated in Game 1 of the ALDS. There isn't a better pitching prospect in the game.

2
Bryce Harper, C, WAS — He's a long shot to make the team out of spring training at the tender age of 19. But a late-season callup could be worth the wait for Harper's elite power.

Nicolas Batum

▶ **F, Blazers**
Portland is struggling, so they are turning their mega-talented sixth man into a starter. Major upside.

J.R. Smith

▶ **SG, Free agent**
Smith is on his way back from China and has been linked to the Clippers' starting gig.

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The trial consists of 4 to 6 visits per year to the research facility, Temple Lung Center, for up to 2 years. You may receive $100 for the first visit and $50 for each following visit.

For more information, call 215-707-4260 or e-mail breathe@temple.edu

Temple Lung Center

This information is approved by Temple University for public display and is associated with project 12926.

Did Jaws get booted off Monday Night Football?

Ron Jaworski is no longer the voice of "Monday Night Football." In fact, he won't be in the broadcast booth in 2012.

The former Eagles quarterback signed a five-year extension yesterday with ESPN for an expanded, multi-platform NFL analyst role, according to the network. Jaworski's new role will include appearances on "Sunday NFL Countdown," "Monday Night Countdown," "NFL Matchup" and other NFL-branded specials.

For the first time in 15 years, "Monday Night Football" will feature a two-person commentator team led by Mike Tirico and Jon Gruden.

"I am grateful for having the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of working on "Monday Night Football" the past five seasons with Mike Tirico, Jon Gruden and so many other talented people behind the scenes who make the show so great, and I look forward to bringing my passion and knowledge of the game to more fans in more places than ever before on any and all football topics," Jaworski said in a statement. METRO

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Jaworski

Feud with Grud

The Internet was abuzz with rumors that Jaws was removed due to a feud with Gruden. The two reportedly had a heated exchange in the booth in 2009. Anyway, here is Gruden's statement on the switch:

"Jaws has taught me so much about broadcasting and nobody works harder. He also watches as much film as anyone. I'll miss working with him on Monday Nights but I'm glad we're still on the same ESPN team."

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Draft experts weigh in on Eagles weaknesses

The Eagles need a linebacker. That's not exactly breaking news.

Problem is the best one in the NFL draft, at least according to NFL Network analyst Mike Mayock, may not be there when the Eagles select at No. 15. Mayock conducted a conference call with NFL reporters yesterday and named Boston College's Luke Kuechly the best available.

"Think about Sean Lee. I think that's the best comparison for him," Mayock said. "Sean Lee went in the second round to Dallas, but has become a Pro Bowl inside linebacker, and I think this kid is very similar. He doesn't have the knee issues Sean had, and I think he's a slightly better athlete."

Another hot name making the message board rounds has been Arizona State's Vontaze Burfict. He hits hard and has evoked images of fan favorite Jeremiah Trotter. But Mayock isn't a fan — "at all."

"I just watched a bunch of his tape the other day. I came away unimpressed," he said. "For a big, strong guy, he's nowhere near as strong at the point of attack as I thought he would be." METRO

Mel-low out

Meanwhile, ESPN draft expert Mel Kiper has the Eagles taking Mississippi St. defensive tackle Fletcher Cox with the No. 15 pick.

"No team was softer up the middle than Philly in 2011," Kiper said. "The Eagles can target a linebacker in the next round."

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Kuechly could fill an immediate need at linebacker for the Birds.

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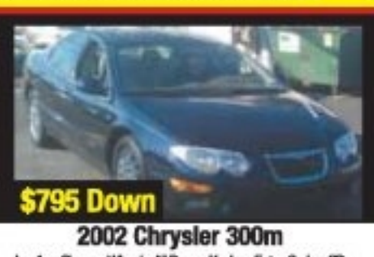

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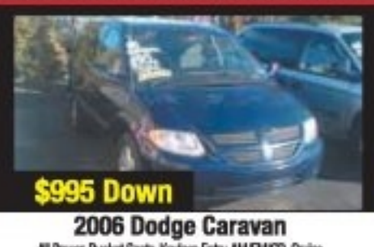

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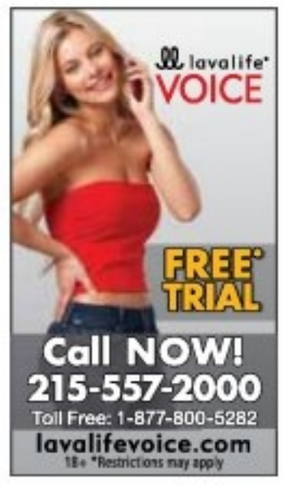

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